

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FEDERAL INMATE CHARGED WITH THREATENING TO KILL FEDERAL JUDGE, PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 16, 2003, a complaint was issued charging Robert D. Stewart, age 63, currently imprisoned at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona, with Influencing, Impeding, or Retaliating Against a United States Judge, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 115(a)(1)(B) and (b)(4). The complaint also charges Stewart with two counts of Making False Statements, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). The probable cause statement in support of the complaint indicates that on or between July, 2002 and August 30, 2002, Robert D. Stewart, while an inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution north in Phoenix, Arizona, solicited another inmate to have someone kill United States District Court Judge Roslyn O. Silver. During an alleged August 30, 2002, conversation, which was recorded, Stewart told the other inmate where the judge could be located in the U.S. District Courthouse and gave a description of the judge.

(MORE)

The probable cause statement indicates that District Court Judge Roslyn O. Silver was the judge who presided over his trial in January of 2002. During that trial, Stewart was convicted of possessing 31 firearms, including 5 machineguns, which he was not entitled to possess by virtue of having been previously convicted of a felony for Possession of a Machinegun in United States District Court in Utah in 1994. Evidence presented in Stewart's case before Judge Silver also included evidence concerning additional firearms found in Stewart's home, to include a .50 caliber handgun, numerous AK-47 style semi-automatic rifles, and a loaded 12 gauge "Street Sweeper" shotgun with a drum magazine, found near the front door of his garage. On May 31st of 2002, Judge Silver sentenced Stewart to five years imprisonment, a \$20,000.00 fine and ordered him to perform 500 hours of community service.

The United States Attorney's Office indicated that a complaint is simply a method by which federal charges may be brought and that no inference of guilt can be drawn from it. The defendant is presumed to be innocent, and may only be convicted if proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

A press conference will be held on this matter at the United States Attorney's Office located at 40 North Central, Suite 1200, on Friday, January 17, 2003, at 1:00 p.m.

CASE NUMBER:

RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-007

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